ACES Monthly

Col Bruce Barthold

Another fiscal year-end tested Civil Engineering. This year, as with last, was a major CFO push for everyone, and as usual "Murphy" was behind each rock.   Even though obstacles were encountered and required extraordinary efforts, with diligence and perseverance you made this all come off like clockwork; big "kudos" to everyone. Mr. Dennis Firman, the Executive Director, providing day-to- day ACES oversight, departed to serve as Chief of Construction for HQ ACC. Mr. Firman will be missed in our effort to continue the ACES progress made during the last year. Thanks for your outstanding leadership, Dennis!

ACES-RP

A very large ACES-RP release with significant changes addressing end-of-year CFO change requests was loaded across all data servers in the regions on 17 Sep 00 and, in general, the software load went very well. A problem encountered in a conversion required for the new software upload caused SSG to keep thirty-nine bases from processing for an extra day in order to correct the deficiency. The release was the culmination of hard work and diligent efforts by many to make operational for end-of-year closeout the additional CFO items identified by the Real Property Tiger Team. Kudos to all!

ACES-PM Marches On!

The ACES-PM training for PACAF was completed in September, but implementation was put on hold due to the need at Hickam for Approval to Operate (ATO). The staff at HQ PACAF/CEO worked the approval of the ATO with the implementation re-scheduled for 30 Oct 00. The ACES-PM Interim Certification &

Accreditation letter is posted on the AFCESA web site. HQ AMC personnel received their facilitator training the week of 18 Sep 00 with their teleteach training and implementation scheduled for 10 through 27 Oct.

ACES-HM

Andrews AFB hosted the ACES-HM IPT meeting 18-22 Sep 00. Attendees included ACES-HM IPT members as well as MAJCOM and base family housing management and systems administrator personnel. The attendees discussed the certification and implementation of ACES-HM originally accepted at the 15 Sep 98 IPT meeting and certified 11 Sep 00.

Training was also discussed. It was decided at the last CCB and ASG meetings that housing would be able to use the same type of training base as was used for the initial implementation, the computerized On Line System Training approach. The contractor who will produce the update of the OLST was in attendance and the attendees were able to see the new OLST. A discussion followed on benefits and the need to include AFIT.

In separate breakout sessions, the IPT members discussed new and previously known problems that have been identified with ACES and the previous OLST. Each person had an opportunity to have a hands-on of the demo database and the new draft OLST.   Functional area housing personnel examined a copy of ACES-HM draft user manual and made constructive comments to enhance the document.

Major ACES-HM Issues Discussed:

Problems with ACES-HM must be documented through the Field Assistance Branch to identify to the SSG development group the problems the bases are having. Now that we have a certified program, we can do this. Previously, IPTs identified the need for

a software support team dedicated to ACES-HM at SSG during conversion for the implementation to be successful. The IPT recognized that a true partnership with AFCESA, DISA, and SSG must be maintained since these are the primary elements responsible for ACES support.

Improving communication: Several IPT members reported difficulty in their attempts to stay informed on ACES-HM status and implementation. Although a central ACES-HM e-mail address (aceshm@andrews.af.mil) was established over two years ago, it still does not provide the types of communication the MAJCOMs would like to have. Improving communications within the Housing community was considered to be the number one issue, not just at the IPT level but the entire spectrum of Housing management. A detailed overview of the revised ACES-HM module will be included for attendees of the Professional Housing Management Association Conference scheduled for Jan 01 in Louisville KY.

Implementation: The MAJCOMs reinforced that implementation would depend on the training. Tentative dates were developed with a stated requirement to have training prior to ACES-HM implementation. A meeting in the mid-November time frame will be conducted with AFIT for their review and approval of the updated OLST and User Manual. The conversion and implementation of Scott AFB from IWIMS to ACES are critical for SSG to test the conversion software. Housing offices should use the IWIMS report located in Library H1XXCONV and File WFHMIGRA to review data prior to implementation. This effort will probably save significant time in the future. The IPT recommended each base do a practice import of their data prior to actual conversion and implementation.

MAJCOM Access: The ACES-HM demonstration database will be available for MAJCOMs to test the revised ACES-HM software. The software (client CD) will be distributed to each MAJCOM and Bolling AFB by SSG. This demonstration database will provide early opportunities for software review and evaluation.

Leadership: Lt Col Bryan Gallagher, AF/ILEH, advised the IPT that Mr. Dave Annis (AFCESA/CEOM Housing Representative) had been appointed the Executive Process Owner for ACES-HM. This functionally means the IPT per se no longer exists, but Mr. Annis will use the membership for Tiger Team activity as needed for implementation and life cycle support of ACES-HM. This establishes a single line of communication relative to ACES-HM (including FMO). Lt Col Gallager will continue to oversee the entire program and provide day-to-day backup for Mr. Annis, when required. Required funding support for ACES-HM initiatives will continue to flow from AF/ILEH.

Furnishings Management
The corrections for FMO have been turned in for Quality Assurance testing at SSG. The FMO release, S000917, will implement corrections for the problems identified by PACAF and USAFE. The IPT is defining additional requirements for enhancement.

ACES-FD
The IPT meeting in San Antonio, Texas, scheduled for the week of 16-20 Oct 00, will provide an opportunity for the full IPT to review the technical proposal for fielding ACES-FD. This proposal is intended to get an operational ACES-FD system fielded as soon as possible within the funding limits we currently have for ACES. The fielding plan will address system changes, training, and implementation. The IPT is currently defining the population to be trained.

System Administration
This new IPT will be a key to the long-range efforts for modernization of Civil Engineer systems. As we move CE systems toward more data sharing and integration for a seamless base operational environment, the focus of our interactions will be different. To have very effective support for CE information systems, it is imperative we have a strong and positive working relationship with the communication support organization on base. The system administration IPT will develop processes and guidance to assist you, but a strong local working relationship is key. In our staff travels to various sites, we see good support where there is a very positive, cohesive working relationship between CE and Communications in particular.

Air Force Intranet Control Center (AFINCC)
The AFINCC is located at Headquarters Standard Systems Group and monitors more than 100 Air Force web sites - classified and unclassified - a major responsibility, but it is one that is critical. The AFINCC is the "Heartbeat" of our Air Force networks. Monitoring and maintaining computer networks for any outages or information attacks, they are our first line of defense against hackers and cybervandals. AFINCC monitors all service delivery points at bases around the world, precluding denial of service attacks on the Air Force networks. Their goal is to provide information, integrity, and assurance to the warfighter. AFINCC is part of a larger team made up of the Network Control Center (NCC) at each base and the Networks Operations and Security Center (NOSC) at each MAJCOM. When the AFINCC detects an information attack, it notifies NOSC and NCC of the incident and then works with them to resolve it. The AFINCC also works very closely with the Air Force Computer Emergency Response Team (AFCERT) based in San Antonio. The AFCERT teams are the law enforcement arm for the Air Force, tracking hackers for prosecution. The work this unit does is very crucial to our operation today. As users of the system, we need to be sure the information we receive is what we want and what we send can be delivered. While not generally well known, without the NCC, NOSC, AFINCC, and AFCERT, communications could become chaotic and subsequently our, and others' ability to support the AF mission would be greatly degraded.

DoD Smart Cards
The DoD has announced that it will begin issuing the first 50,000 smart cards in Oct 00 as part of a larger plan to eventually get about 3 million DoD employees equipped with the card. These initial cards will have 32K of memory. Each service will be given about 7K for their unique needs. One of the driving factors is to provide a way to carry digital certificates storing digital signatures which will be increasingly used in future electronic transactions.

Coming Events
- 30 Oct – 3 Nov: ACES-RP Facilitator training at AFIT

- 11 Jan: ASG meeting at Robins AFB

IT Wisdom
"The systems that last are the ones you were counting on to become obsolete"

Frank Hayes - ComputerWorld